

Conflict Transformation at Middlebury
Resource Library
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WHAT IS CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Amanda Ripley, *High Conflict: Why we get trapped and how we get out*. Simon and Schuster, 2021.

- This clearly written book distinguishes between high conflict and healthy conflict. The appendices are helpful guides to recognizing and preventing high conflict.

John Paul Lederach, *The Moral Imagination*. Oxford University Press, 2005.

- Lederach identifies four dispositions as critical to conflict transformation: relationships, complexity, creativity, and risk-taking.

Bruce Dayton and Louis Kriesberg, *Constructive Conflicts: From Emergence to Transformation*, sixth edition. Rowman and Littlefield, 2022.

- A seminal textbook in the field of conflict studies. Kriesberg is also a frequent writer on conflict transformation.

Julian Portilla, "What Exists is Possible: Stories from Conflict Resolution Professionals," *Conflict Resolution Quarterly*, 24:2 (Winter 2006): 241-48.

- This short piece draws from 60 interviews with professionals working to break through intractable conflicts. It describes four "virtues" - listening, humility, patience, and hope - and two conundrums - concept of neutrality and how to move from talk to action.

CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND MINDFULNESS

Barry Kroll, *The Open Hand* (University Press of Colorado, 2013).

- Shared by BLSE Associate Director Lyndon Dominique with Netta Avineri (MIIS) and Linda White (College). Dominique: "I think Barry's work fits squarely in the spirit of CT by the way he approaches Argument as a bodily as well as a rhetorical practice with peace as a deliberate outcome."

Vanessa Machado de Oliveira, *Hospicing Modernity: Facing Humanity's Wrongs & Implications for Social Activism*. 2021.

- Shared by Betsy Vegso, Pfp. "A powerful, critical read which also remains hopeful about the possibilities for change."

Adam Grant, *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know*. Viking Press, 2021.

- "In a world of aggressive certitude, Adam Grant's latest book is a refreshing mandate for humble open-mindedness. Think Again offers a particularly powerful case for rethinking what we already know . . . that is not just a useful lesson; it could be a vital one."—Financial Times

Jon Kabat-Zinn, *Wherever You Go, There You Are*. Hyperion, 1994.

- This is one of the core texts in Melissa Hammerle's course on Contemplative Education.

DIALOGUE AND DELIBERATION

Levine, Peter, and Nancy Thomas, "Deliberative Democracy and Higher Education," in *To Serve a Larger Purpose*, Saltmarsh and Hartley, editors (Temple UP, 2011).

- This scholar-practitioner duo defines dialogue as "a process of talking and listening with the express purpose of building relationships and fostering mutual understanding" (159).

Longo, Nicholas, and Timothy Shaffer, *Creating space for democracy: A primer on dialogue and deliberation in higher education*. Stylus Publishing, LLC, 2019.

- This edited volume identifies dialogue as essential for learning and for the civic skills necessary for democracy. There are multiple chapters from different organizations that use dialogic practices.

NCDD 2014 Engagement Streams

- This document from NCDD (a practitioner-scholar network on deliberation and dialogue) maps out different dialogic approaches and describes structured dialogue as part of Conflict Transformation.

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Netta Avineri, "Nested Interculturality: Dispositions and Practices for Navigating Tensions in Immersion Experiences" In D. Martin & E. Smolcic (Eds.) *Redefining Competence Through Cultural Immersion: Teacher Preparation for Culturally Diverse Classrooms*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.

- Avineri identifies dispositions to foster (ex: critical empathy, ethical engagement) and the tensions that emerge in intercultural immersion experiences.

Lisa Schirch and David Campt, *The Little Book of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects* (Good Books, 2007).

- Schirch and Campt bridge dialogic practices and intercultural communication. Campt led a 2018 workshop at Middlebury on campus free speech, and his work advances transformative discourses on race and racism.

Beth Fisher-Yoshida, "Reframing conflict: Intercultural conflict as potential transformation." *Journal of Intercultural Communication*, 8:1 (2005): 1-16.

- Fisher-Yoshida directs the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution program at Columbia, and highlights self awareness and communication as contributors to conflict resolution and transformation.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Desiree Anderson, "Co-opting Restorative Justice in Higher Education," chapter 8 in *Colorizing Restorative Justice: Voicing Our Realities*, Valandra, E. C., Yazzie, R. editors. Living Justice Press, 2020.

- Shared by Ashley Laux (CCE): "Facilitators of restorative justice must do the work of developing their multi-cultural competence...the 'awareness, knowledge, and skills that are needed to work effectively across cultural groups and to work with complex diversity issues.' (153)

Morrison, B., Thorsborne, M. & Blood, P. (2005). *Practicing Restorative Justice in School Communities: The Challenge of Culture Change*. Public Organization Review: A Global Journal. 5: 335–357.

Zehr, H. (2015). *The Little Book of Restorative Justice: revised and updated*. Intercourse, PA: Good Books.

MEDIATION

brown, adrienne maree. *Holding Change: The Way of Emergent Strategy Facilitation and Mediation*. AK Press, 2021.

- brown was the Clifford 2021 keynote speaker on the long work of climate change. This book draws from Black feminist thought, climate and community activism, indigenous communities, and more. She offers core principles, self-assessment tools, and a distinction between facilitation and mediation.

RAB Bush & JP Folger, *The Promise of Mediation: Responding to Conflict Through Empowerment and Recognition*. 2005.

- Shared by Betsy Vegso (PfP): The transformative model of mediation proposes that moral growth in

interpersonal conflict is possible by empowering oneself and recognizing “the other.”

Ury, William. *The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop* (1999).

- Ury has shifted from the concept of mediator/negotiator (aka “third-party”) to a vision of the community as “[the third side](#)” - roles which supports peace: provider, teacher, bridge-builder, mediator, arbiter, equalizer, healer, witness, referee, peacekeeper.